



*Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.”*

Today, we celebrate the **Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**. We read from **Matthew 16:21-27**.

We read in this Sunday's gospel that Jesus knew God's plan for His life and began to share it with his disciples. But Peter – out of his great love for Jesus – didn't want to accept that his Lord would have to suffer. Jesus taught His disciples that a good and holy life would be filled with many challenges and trials, but that our eternal reward with God in heaven will be perfect.

We pray for the strength to walk Jesus' path to heaven by following his teachings of love. In our lives, the "crosses" we face may be people who treat us differently because of what we believe or sacrifices we have to make to share our gifts with those who are in need. But these small acts of love and faith bind us closer to God, who loves us infinitely.

For More Fun:

- ✓ This week, think about what your "cross" might be. Offer a small sacrifice out of love for someone in need and to unite yourself and your family more closely with Jesus Christ.
- ✓ It's "back to school" time! Start your school year right by praying on the way to school each day. As you begin the new year, remember to pray each day for your principal and teacher.
- ✓ Do you have a crucifix in your home and in your bedroom? If not, visit a Catholic gift store this week and find a special one for your home or classroom.
- ✓ This week, we celebrate St. Gregory the Great (9/03) and Blessed Theresa of Calcutta (9/05). Learn more about the lives of the saints at Saints.SQPN.com.
- ✓ We love to hear from you! Email me at lisa@catholicmom.com to let me know where you live and where you go to Church!

**My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my
God.**